

**SECURE ELECTRONIC STOCKS**  
**AND OTHER TITLES AND INSTRUMENTS**

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ABSTRACT

A method and system for digitally managing financial instruments. In accordance with this method, an owner of a financial instrument creates a title for the  
10 instrument, and this title includes (i) a message describing the title and how to contact the owner, and (ii) a digital signature of the owner. The owner transfers ownership of the financial instrument to another person. To do this, the owner, appends to the  
15 title a public part of a signature scheme of that other person, and the owner signs the title using a public signature scheme of the owner. Preferably, when ownership is transferred, a number is appended to the title indicating the number of successive owners of the  
20 title. Also, preferably, the owner keeps the public part of the signature of the other person and makes that public part available to potential subsequent buyers.